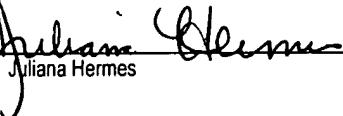


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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on April 18, 2002

QUINE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW GROUP, P.C.

By


Juliana Hermes

Attorney Docket No. 02-107010US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Linda A. Castle, et al.

Application No.: 10/004,357

Filed: October 29, 2001

For: NOVEL GLYPHOSATE N-ACETYL
TRANSFERASE (GAT) GENES

Examiner: Unassigned

Art Unit: 1645

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the following Preliminary Amendment be considered prior to examination of the above-cited application.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the specification as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph on page 147, line 1, immediately following the claims:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Novel proteins are provided herein, including proteins capable of catalyzing the acetylation of glyphosate and other structurally related proteins. Also provided are novel polynucleotides capable of encoding these proteins, compositions that include one or more of these novel proteins and/or polynucleotides, recombinant cells and transgenic plants comprising these novel compounds, diversification methods involving the novel compounds, and methods of using the compounds. Some of the novel methods and compounds provided herein can be used to render an organism, such as a plant, resistant to glyphosate.